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Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The World Summit for Social Development was held in March 1995 at Copenhagen, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/92. It adopted the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action on Social Development, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 50/161. At its fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, the Assembly considered the item "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development". In resolution 52/25, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-third session on the subject.

The present report contains updated information on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit by intergovernmental bodies, including the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives, the Commission for Social Development, and the Economic and Social Council. Other follow-up activities, including national reporting, activities undertaken by the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations system and civil society are also described in the report.

The report concludes with a time-table for the intergovernmental process towards the year 2000, when the special session will take place. It also indicates that, while it outlines positive development and activities in implementing the goals of the Summit, much more remains to be done at the international, regional and national levels to tackle the serious problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration faced by most countries.

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I. Introduction

1. At the World Summit for Social Development, convened by the United Nations in March 1995 at Copenhagen, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, Heads of State and Government adopted the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] and Programme of Action[2] which represented a collective commitment to treat social development as the highest priority of all national and international policies. These documents were endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995.

2. At its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, the General Assembly considered the item on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and, in its resolution 52/25 of 26 November 1997, requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-third session on the subject. Since the Summit, three reports on the implementation of its outcome have been submitted to the Assembly by the Secretary-General (A/50/670, A/51/348 and A/52/305). The reports contain descriptions of initiatives and of activities of a continuing nature; it would, therefore, be useful to refer to them when considering the present report.

II. Special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and further initiatives

3. The proposal for a special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit was put forward by the Summit and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 50/161.

4. In resolution 51/202 of 17 December 1996, the Assembly set out the preparatory process for the special session, and decided that the Commission for Social Development, as the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council with the primary responsibility for follow-up to the Summit and for review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action would undertake work in 1999 and 2000 for the preparations of the special session.

5. Through its resolution 52/25, the General Assembly established a Preparatory Committee, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly. The Assembly also decided that the Committee would hold its organizational session in May 1998, initiate its substantive activities in 1999 on the basis of inputs by the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, and would also take into account contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

III. Organizational session of the Preparatory Committee

6. The organizational session of the Preparatory Committee took place in New York from 19 to 22 May 1998. It held a general debate on the preparations for the special session and two panel discussions on the appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and on further initiatives to achieve its goals. Panellists included representatives of Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, international experts and non-governmental organizations. Among the issues addressed were the impact of globalization; external debt; structural adjustment programmes; a political culture for social progress; emerging policy challenges and constraints; integrated approach to poverty eradication; promotion of full employment; the role of values in policy formulation; participation and right to information; and social capital. The discussions highlighted the need for more effective initiatives and actions at the national, regional and international levels to implement the agreements reached at Copenhagen. A summary of the discussion is contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly.[3]

7. The Committee adopted a number of decisions which will be brought to the attention of the Assembly at its fifty-third session. These decisions relate to:

(a) Objectives of the special session

8. The Committee decided that the main purposes of the special session would be to reaffirm and not to renegotiate the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as to review implementation so far, and to recommend concrete actions and initiatives to further efforts towards their full and effective implementation.

(b) Issues to be addressed at future sessions of the Preparatory Committee

9. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its first session a report focusing on the

implementation of the 10 commitments, including the 3 core issues, at the national, regional and international levels; to submit to it at its second session, in 2000, the *Report on the World Social Situation*, containing an up-to-date comprehensive assessment of global trends; and to submit to it, also at its second session, in the year 2000, a comprehensive document assessing the overall level of implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

(c) Coordination with the Commission for Social Development

10. The Committee recommended that the Commission for Social Development be entrusted with the responsibility of acting as the forum for national reporting and identifying areas where further initiatives are needed for consideration by the Committee; it also requested the Secretary-General to formulate general guidelines and a structure and common framework for national reporting on the progress made and obstacles encountered.

(d) Role of the United Nations system

11. The Commission reaffirmed that its substantive activities should take into account the results of other United Nations major conferences and contributions by other relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and invited them to contribute to and be actively involved in the preparatory process and the special session, by, *inter alia*, submitting proposals for further actions and initiatives.

(e) Mobilization of voluntary resources

12. The Committee invited Governments to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development set up to support the participation of the least developed countries in the work of the Committee and the special session and the organization by the Secretariat of expert group meetings, seminars, symposia and workshops to be held by the Secretariat on issues of relevance to the special session.

(f) Participation of non-governmental organizations

13. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of participation of non-governmental organizations and the involvement of civil society in the implementation of and the follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action, and decided on the modalities for the participation of these organizations in the work of the Preparatory Committee; it also decided to defer consideration of the modalities of their participation at the special session until its next meeting.

(g) Arrangements for future sessions

14. The Committee decided to hold its first substantive session in New York from 17 to 28 May 1999 and its second session, also in New York, from 3 to 14 April 2000; and that the special session will be held for a period of five working days in the year 2000 at a date to be determined at a later stage.

15. With regard to the venue of the special session, the Government of Switzerland has extended an offer to the Assembly to hold its special session in the year 2000 at the United Nations Office at Geneva (see A/AC.253/4). The Government will finance the additional costs involved in holding the session at Geneva instead of in New York. At its organizational session in May 1998, the Preparatory Committee took note with appreciation of the offer of the Swiss Government and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the practical implications, including all additional direct and indirect financial implications for the United Nations of this offer in time for the General Assembly to take a decision on the venue and date at the main part of its fifty-third session in 1998. The note by the Secretary-General, contained in document A/53/210, is also before the Assembly.

IV. Priority theme for 1998: promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons: thirty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development

16. At its thirty-sixth session,[4] held in New York from 10 to 20 February 1998, the Commission for Social Development considered the priority theme under its restructured agenda and multi-year programme of work, entitled "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons". To assist the Commission in its work, the Secretariat convened two workshops of independent international experts on the subjects of participation and social justice and reducing vulnerability. Reports of these workshops, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the subject, were submitted to the Commission (E/CN.5/1998/4, E/CN.5/1998/5 and E/CN.5/1998/2, respectively).

17. Two panels of experts and two dialogues with non-governmental organizations on the priority theme were organized during the plenary session of the Commission. The Commission also heard special presentations by national representatives on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

18. With regard to the priority theme, the Commission adopted a resolution in which it decided to adopt agreed conclusions on the topic and to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 1998 and appropriate follow-up action, as well as to the Preparatory Committee for the Special session of the General Assembly, and to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting in the capacity of the preparatory body for the June 1998 special session of the Assembly devoted to countering the world drug problem together, at its second session in March 1998.

19. The agreed conclusions contained recommendations for action at local, national, regional and international levels in the areas of promoting social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, non-discrimination, tolerance, equality and social justice; enhancing social protection, reducing vulnerability and enhancing employment opportunities for groups with specific needs; and violence, crime and the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social disintegration (see the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-sixth session).[4]

20. It should be noted that the priority themes for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development (February 1999) will be "Social services for all" and "Initiation of the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit".

V. Other follow-up activities in 1998

A. National reporting

21. As indicated in paragraph 7 (c) above, the Preparatory Committee requested the Secretary-General to formulate as soon as possible general guidelines and a structure and common framework for national reporting on the progress made and obstacles encountered, and to invite Governments to provide information as soon as possible in order to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of his report, to be submitted to it at its second substantive session in April 2000. The Committee also requested the Secretary-General to draw upon information already provided by Governments and compile all data available in and outside the United Nations system relevant to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action. The Secretariat is in the process of formulating those guidelines which, it is envisaged, will be forwarded to Governments in October 1998.

22. In promoting national implementation and reporting, the Secretary-General addressed letters to Heads of State and Government in March 1998, in which he stated that, despite efforts by many Governments to implement the decisions of the Summit, "poverty, unemployment and social disintegration continue to be desperately serious problems which tear at the social fabric of many countries and are often the source of persistent subregional and regional tensions". The Secretary-General stressed that, in order to address these problems effectively, much more was required, through national action as well as international cooperation, and called for the contribution of Governments to strengthen the momentum of implementation of Summit commitments and to report substantial progress in the year 2000.

23. Responses from Governments to the Secretary-General's letter indicate that many Governments continue to support strongly the commitments made at Copenhagen and share the view that the political momentum provided by the Summit in 1995 needs to be further maintained and strengthened. While some Governments are promoting social development in their countries through poverty eradication, employment generation, building up of representative local government institutions and human resources development, others have formulated economic and social development strategies, established social investment funds and allocating a greater share of the budget to the social sector.

24. Some Governments have also organized conferences and seminars to further the implementation of Summit goals. For example, the Government of Austria hosted an International expert meeting on innovative employment initiatives at Vienna from 2 to 6 February 1998, as a European initiative to the regional follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. Different innovative approaches to improve the employment situation in Europe and further instruments to combat unemployment were discussed.

25. The conclusions of the Preparatory Committee included the following:

- The importance of placing growth of employment at the centre of macroeconomic policy and of evolving an institutional structure within the European Union which allows this to happen more readily;

- Recognition of the value of employment subsidies as a cost-effective method of increasing employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed, in contrast to passive income support for the unemployed;
- Recognition of the value of consensual social pacts between government, businesses and unions in enabling negotiated approaches to both economic and social policy. The evidence from a number of countries is that such pacts facilitate wage moderation in return for employment-generating economic policies and improvements in the social wage;
- Reorganization of work and reduction in average working time can contribute to redistribution of work, provided it is organized in ways which do not add to the cost of labour.

26. The Government of Denmark continues to convene the Copenhagen seminars, launched by the Minister for Development Cooperation to pursue the debate initiated by the Summit under the umbrella heading of "Conditions for social progress", defined as encompassing both the well-being of individuals and the harmonious functioning of societies. The subject of the first seminar, held in 1996, was "World economy for the benefit of all". The second seminar took place in October 1997 and considered the topic "Humane markets for humane societies". Four characteristics of "humane markets" were defined as:

- Economic participation: allowing full and significant economic participation, offering economic opportunities to a maximum number of people;
- Economic justice: providing people with a fair reward for their economic activity, without exploitation or excessively skewed income and wealth distribution;
- Economic morality: being ruled by ethical principles; when competition is fair and contracts are respected;
- Economic moderation: remaining restricted to economic transactions and not invading all spheres of life and society.

27. The observations of the seminar on these four characteristics were that unconstrained markets cause problems. For example, there is growing inequity in many countries; social norms and values appear to be weakening and to be a source of growing cynicism; and a major obstacle to economic moderation is the monetization of societies. Based on these observations, the seminar conducted an analysis of conditions for making markets more humane and examined the following three issues: features of humane States; cultures to be developed to foster humane societies; and the search for a new global political project and for new international institutions. The 1998 seminar, to be convened at the end of October 1998, will address "Political culture and institutions for a world community".

B. Economic and Social Council

28. The General Assembly, in resolution 52/25, reaffirmed that the follow-up to the Summit will be undertaken on the basis of an integrated approach to social development and within the framework of a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of the major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields. The Preparatory Committee also reaffirmed that its substantive activities should take into account the results of other United Nations major conferences.

29. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1997/61, stressed the need to promote further integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major international conferences in the social, economic and related fields, and convened a resumed session from 13 to 15 May 1998 to consider this question. The Council focused its discussions on six broad areas, namely, cross-cutting issues; coordination and management role of the Economic and Social Council, particularly vis-à-vis its functional commissions and the executive boards of the funds and programmes; inter-agency coordination; country level follow-up; regional level follow-up; and monitoring. At its substantive session in 1998, the Council adopted resolution 1998/44 on the topic.

30. At its substantive session in 1998, the Council also devoted its high-level segment to a ministerial debate on market access and adopted, for the first time in its history, a ministerial communiqué by which the Council pledges, *inter alia*, to work towards further enhanced market access for the exports of the least developed countries, within the context of supporting their own efforts at capacity-building. Concerned about the financial crisis affecting a number of countries, the Council recognized the need for improved measures to address the negative effects of the volatility of international capital flows in the international trading system and the development prospects of developing countries.

31. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B, of 24 May 1996 and December 1997, respectively, which mandated review by the Council of its functional commission, the Vice-President of the Council conducted an ongoing review of the functional commission of the Council with specific responsibilities for the follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and reached

agreements on issues such as working methods, role of the bureau, participation, documentation, outcome/reporting, relations with the Economic and Social Council, interrelationship between functional commissions and relations with the regional commissions and other relevant regional bodies.

C. United Nations Secretariat and United Nations system

32. Organizations of the United Nations system continue to undertake individual and joint activities aimed at implementing the outcome of the Summit.

1. Administrative Committee on Coordination

33. In seeking to develop a coordinated approach to the follow-up to global conferences held during the 1990s, with a view to promoting sustained and integrated implementation at the country level of the policy recommendations emanating from these conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development, the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) established three thematic ad hoc inter-agency task forces (on basic social services for all; on employment and sustainable livelihoods; and on the enabling environment for social and economic development), as well as the Inter-Agency Committee for Women and Gender Equality. The task forces have completed their mandated work and their outputs include: (a) identification of key elements of the policy framework for pursuing conference goals; (b) recommendations and guidelines for the United Nations system programming; (c) country reviews and case studies; (d) identification of other areas requiring attention (such as the role of civil society; elaboration of statistics and indicators; and the use of information technology); and (e) institutional arrangements for follow-up.

34. In its report for 1997 to the Economic and Social Council (E/1998/21), ACC reviewed the work of the task forces and stressed the need to put to best use of the lessons learned. It made a number of decisions for ensuring that the momentum for implementation that has been created was further sustained, and that supporting the translation of conference outcomes into concrete national policies and programmes remains a key priority. The Administrative Committee called upon the organizations of the United Nations system to utilize fully existing national-level mechanisms and frameworks, and that maximum advantage should be taken of the results of the work of the three task forces.

35. In order to ensure the coherent and integrated support of the United Nations system to the field level follow-up to conference goals, the ACC Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions and the United Nations Development Group Office jointly sponsored a workshop in Turin, Italy, in December 1997. The workshop developed integrated guidance for the resident coordinator system for country level follow-up to global conferences. At its twelfth session (2–6 March 1998), the Consultative Committee decided to convert this integrated guidance into an ACC note to be distributed to all United Nations system country teams.

36. Overall, ACC has found that the task forces has constituted an unprecedented system-wide effort to providing integrated, coordinated and productive support to Governments in the follow-up to major conferences. The task forces have contributed to deepening the understanding within the United Nations system of the policy framework and development agendas at the country level and have highlighted the need for continuing dialogue among the United Nations agencies concerned, and between organizations of the United Nations system and national Governments.

2. United Nations Secretariat

37. In the United Nations Secretariat, one of the main functions of the newly created Department of Economic and Social Affairs is to assist Member States in providing, through the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their relevant subsidiary bodies, a coordinated framework for promoting and monitoring, as appropriate, the implementation of agreed plans, strategies, programmes or platforms of action, including coordinated follow-up to the United Nations conferences and special sessions of the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields.

38. Within the Department, the Division for Social Policy and Development continues to serve as focal point for the follow-up to the Summit. Central activities of the restructured Division involve encouraging, supporting and coordinating the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Summit by national Governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations. An important focus for the Division during the next two years will be the preparations for the special session of the Assembly in 2000. To this end, preparatory work being undertaken by the Division include the organization and co-sponsoring of expert groups meetings, seminars and workshops, encouraging and evaluating national reporting, supporting research projects,

monitoring and assessing national and global trends; commissioning background documents on issues which will be addressed by the special session; and working with non-governmental organizations and other representatives of the civil society, including the private sector in preparation for the session.

39. Other core functions of the Division, within the framework of follow-up to the Summit, include: (a) facilitating the negotiation of agreed positions, resolutions, international standards and norms through the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental forums, notably the special session of the General Assembly in 2000; (b) supporting and facilitating United Nations system-wide cooperation and programme coordination on social issues; (c) promoting the exchange of information and ideas by the facilitation of dialogue among Governments and between Governments and civil society; (d) advocating recognition of special needs, such as those of the poor or unemployed, and of groups requiring specific support; and (e) providing advisory services to Governments on request about social policies and programmes aimed at contributing to development.

3. United Nations system

40. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the lead agency in the follow-up on the promotion of productive employment, has actively promoted increasing awareness of the importance of attaining the goal of full, productive and freely chosen employment as an integral element for fulfilling the commitments adopted at Copenhagen. The ILO chaired the ACC Task Force on Full Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods, the main output of which was a synthesis report focusing on individual country employment reviews to identify the main lessons from their pursuit of full employment and sustainable livelihoods and explore whether these lessons can be replicated in other countries. Follow-up implementation is under way at the country level. The lessons learned have been incorporated into the synthesis report and a set of guidelines for use by the United Nations resident coordinators have been prepared. ILO also worked with its Governing Body to adapt these lessons learned and experiences to a broader set of country employment reviews and a process at regional seminars and at an international consultation on the follow-up to the Summit. This international consultation will be hosted by ILO in November 1999 and will include other international organizations. It is expected that this event will contribute significantly to the assessment of progress of the Summit and to the preparation of initiatives. ILO is also considering the holding of a World Employment Conference in the near future.

41. In the area of the observance of core international labour standards, in response to the Summit's call for "safeguarding and promoting respect for basic workers' rights" with specific reference to "the prohibition of foster labour and child labour, the freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the principle of non-discrimination", the Director-General of ILO launched a special campaign on ratification of the standards which are derived from these basic principles. The International Labour Conference held in June 1998 adopted a Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, committing Member States to respect the principles inherent in core labour standards and promoting their universal application. ILO has also undertaken activities related to the eradication of child labour, in particular through the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour. Drafting of a new Convention concerning the eradication of child labour is under consideration.

42. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to take an active role globally and regionally in the follow-up to the Summit while maintaining its main focus at the country level. The UNDP mandate to make poverty its overriding priority has necessitated substantial restructuring of programme focus and has begun to change the nature of dialogue between country offices, Governments and civil society. The analysis of country cooperation frameworks for the 1997–2000 programming cycle has provided UNDP with clear evidence of the interest of Governments in engaging with the United Nations system to address major themes of the Copenhagen Programme of Action. Results include increased emphasis on explicit social development initiatives, such as establishing national anti-poverty strategies and targets; enhancing the sustainable livelihoods of those living in poverty; mainstreaming gender issues in development programming; and broadening the institutional base for civil society organization cooperation with the United Nations system.

43. The *Human Development Report 1997* was devoted to documenting the multidimensionality, extent, severity and complexity of global poverty, devising new ways (e.g. the human poverty index) to measure it, and to proposing feasible and affordable strategies for combating it. UNDP will publish its first comprehensive poverty report in late 1998. At the policy level, UNDP is engaged, often in partnership with other institutions of the United Nations system, in research activities on linkages between poverty reduction and gender equality and between poverty reduction and inequality, as well as in assessing the impacts of

globalization on poverty and resource distribution. The Poverty Strategies Initiative (a multi-donor programme launched immediately following the Summit) has facilitated UNDP work with over 80 countries in supporting country anti-poverty strategies in various stages of development.

44. The involvement of UNDP with the other two Summit themes is closely woven into the overall focus of UNDP programmes on poverty eradication at country, regional and global levels. As a complement to mainstream approaches to job creation through stimulating economic growth and associated human resources development strategies (e.g. institution strengthening and training), UNDP is developing a comprehensive concept of support for sustainable livelihoods systems in several pilot countries worldwide. Rather than concentrating solely on a needs-based approach to the poor, sustainable livelihoods programmes reach out to the excluded to build on assessments of community strengths and try to learn how men, women and their families cope and adapt to various forms of shock and stress. UNDP assists countries with the necessary macro-policy adjustments to provide an enabling environment for appropriate coping/adaptive policies and activities that enhance livelihood sustainability, recognizing that specific barriers that women face exercise an overall downward effect upon family and community strategies, and require specific attention at both macro and micro levels. An international working group of eminent scholars and practitioners has been formed to help UNDP in this effort.

45. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been cooperating closely with other organizations of the United Nations system in the follow-up of major conferences, including the Summit. UNICEF participated in the work of the ACC Task Forces and has been active in the pilot phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the development of common country assessments and in the formulation of sectoral support studies on the financing of basic social services in more than two dozen countries. The objective of these studies is to build national capacities to gather and analyse information on relevant expenditures covered by the 20/20 Initiative. Regional workshops on methodologies and findings led to the creation of a strong intergovernmental network of policy makers on the initiative. A major international meeting on the 20/20 initiative will be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, at the end of 1998 to assess the progress made since the 1996 Oslo Conference. UNICEF is working with Governments, UNDP and the World Bank to place the policy issues related to the financing of basic social services on the agenda of round table and consultative group meetings.

46. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) chaired the Task Force on Basic Social Services, which has produced a number of "end products", including (a) guidelines on basic education, on a common approach to national capacity building in tracking child and maternal mortality, on primary health care, on reproductive health and on women's empowerment; (b) guidance notes on international migration and development; (c) a wall chart on basic social services for all; (d) an advocacy card, entitled "Why invest in basic social services?"; (e) donor collaboration in assistance to the social sector: three country case studies; and (f) a compendium of social issues from the United Nations Global Conferences of the 1990s. These guidelines, advocacy and informational material are designed to promoting integrated conference implementation at the country level.

47. The Task Force concentrated its efforts on developing quantitative and qualitative indicators, which are critical in assessing the progress made towards implementing the conference goals and the effectiveness of country policies and programmes. To this end, the Task Force developed indicators which permit baseline assessments of a country's reproductive health situation and allows countries to measure improvements in this area. The wall chart on basic social services provides country-level data in six key areas (population; primary health care; nutrition; basic education; drinking water and sanitation; and shelter), with 12 key indicators to assist countries in monitoring progress in meeting conference goals in the provision of basic social services. The work of the Task Force, including the Guidelines, has been distributed to the United Nations resident coordinators to make operational the programmes of action emanating from the global conferences. The above material will be useful for formulating common country assessments and as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. They are also intended for a variety of development partners, such as Governments, civil society groups, research institutions and private sector stakeholders, in order to implement conference goals and other international agendas.

48. UNFPA has revised its programme areas and operational modalities. It has sharpened its strategic focus to concentrate on three priority areas, namely, reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies and advocacy. The Fund's work in these three principal areas is based on the cross-cutting themes of the global conferences, namely, poverty eradication, gender mainstreaming, the enabling environment and human rights.

49. The Executive Board of the World Bank adopted the Strategic Compact in 1997, which refocuses its development agenda, strengthening its institutional priorities and placing more emphasis on the cost-effective achievements of results on the ground and on the creation of new and stronger partnerships with other development organizations. Its expanded social agenda includes promoting community-based development, strengthening indigenous capacity and engaging in public consultation and outreach to many new partners. In the past 18 months, some 20 country assistance strategies have been prepared in a participatory fashion. The Bank also cooperates with United Nations agencies in collecting social data and in monitoring and implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, including collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF on poverty-related issues.

50. The World Bank continues its work on the Social Capital Initiative, which includes a number of studies undertaken to measure social capital in selected countries and to show its impact on development outcomes. A programme of comparative research on local level institutions and social capital represents an effort to increase the Bank's understanding of the role of local level institutions in the sustainable development process.

51. The Social Capital Initiative has three goals: (a) to aim to assess the impact of initiatives to strengthen social capital on project effectiveness; (b) to demonstrate that outside assistance can help in the process of social capital formation; and (c) to contribute to the development of indicators for monitoring social capital and methodologies for measuring its impact on development.

52. As part of the Bank's movement towards the implementation of a new development paradigm which integrates social, cultural, institutional and economic factors, the Bank is keen to incorporate, in a better way, social capital considerations into its project lending and policy advice. The Bank's Social Development Task Force has identified five possible levels of action which the Bank could undertake:

(a) Use current and new tools to understand more thoroughly the nature of existing institutions in client countries and their roles in social and economic development, in order to ensure that Bank programmes avoid weakening existing, positive social capital and to identify areas when institutional strengthening is needed;

(b) Where possible, work with existing social capital, especially peoples' associations and organizations, for the design and delivery of projects;

(c) Facilitate enabling environments that foster the strengthening of social capital in a country; this might include fostering greater interaction between civil society and government, enhanced civil liberties, enhanced mechanisms for government transparency, and stronger contracts and economic institutions;

(d) Invest directly in social capital, through, for example, training and capacity-building of local organizations or through direct financial support;

(e) Conduct further research on the distributive and growth implications of strengthening social capital, and on strategies for working with civil society organizations.

53. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that it has increasingly integrated social concerns into structural adjustment policies and has given significant priority to good governance and to the role of civil society in development. In this regard, an external evaluation recommended improvements in the Fund's enhanced structural adjustment facility including identifying social impact during programme formulation; monitoring of vulnerable groups; and systematic follow-up on variations in social spending. As a follow-up to major United Nations conferences, including the Summit, the IMF notes that it is paying particular attention to the need for higher levels of public expenditure on primary health care and basic education; assisting countries with appropriate macroeconomic policies that promote the efficient use of resources; and encouraging price and market liberalization, open exchange rates, trade, and more flexible labour markets and financial sector reforms that remove barriers to employment and income generation. The Fund also assists in preparing government policy framework papers that incorporate these aspects and that include targets for basic social spending and for social indicators.

54. The regional commissions, within their respective mandates, continue to initiate activities for the implementation and follow-up of the Summit.

55. As an integral part of the follow-up activity the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has placed special emphasis on social policy and poverty analysis. ECA has been promoting a dialogue with Member States on equity and growth, linkages between poverty, gender and ethnicity; making public expenditures pro-poor in Africa; and building national capacities for poverty analysis and monitoring. ECA will publish a status report on poverty annually and is planning to convene a regional meeting to review the progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit in Kenya in October 1998.

56. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has concentrated its analytical activities on how certain analytical and policy aspects can be linked within an integrated approach so as to reinforce existing areas of complementarity between efforts to seek greater growth and social equity. From this perspective, ECLAC has been conducting studies on such issues as growth and social equity, role of social policy, relevance of environmental and demographic aspects, educational reform for development with social equity, regional and world economic integration. ECLAC has collaborated extensively with organizations of the United Nations system in this area. It also prepared the annual report, the *Social Panorama of Latin America 1997*, which evaluated the most relevant aspects of social development in the region, particularly those associated to the social equity dimension. Some of the topics discussed included employment, income distribution, poverty, the situation of young people and children, gender and social expenditure. Special emphasis is placed on the structural aspects of income distribution, the composition of employment and the transmission between generations of educational and labour opportunities. The Social Panorama included a section on the deliberations held at the First Regional Conference in the Follow-up to the Social Summit (held in April 1997 in São Paulo, Brazil).

57. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has focused on social statistics and self-employment through the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises, in cooperation with UNDP. ECE held a workshop on poverty among ageing, organized within the framework of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. Through its analytical work, ECE will address such issues as economic reforms and its impact on income distribution, employment and poverty.

58. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convened the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development at Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997, hosted by the Government of the Philippines.[5] The Conference reviewed and assessed the progress made towards attaining the goals of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and the means to enhance the regional cooperation in its support. The Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Conference, in its resolution 54/2 of 22 April 1998 contained recommendations for achieving the interrelated goals of eradicating poverty, expansion of employment, and enhancement of social integration. In implementing social development programmes and activities of the ESCAP region, particular attention has been accorded to integrated approach as well as to strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations and civil society. At its fifty-fourth session, held in April 1998,[6] the Commission called for the convening of a regional meeting of senior officials in 1999 to review progress in the implementation of the preparations for the global review of the follow-up to the Summit by the General Assembly at its special session in 2000.

59. Analytical work has included the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1998*, which examined the causes underlying the current financial crisis and suggested policy measures for preventing future upheavals. Among the causes, the Survey discussed current account deficits, weakness in the financial sector, the role of the private market players and policy responses relating to private capital inflows. The Survey also examined the trends and patterns of equity in the region as well as the interrelationship between poverty, income inequality and growth.

60. Among other follow-up activities, ESCAP has provided assistance through advisory missions and national workshops on the implementation of the regional Social Development Agenda in Fiji, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal and Vanuatu, with funding support from the Asian Development Bank. In the area of poverty reduction, ESCAP has undertaken both analytical and operational activities in the following areas: growth strategies and structural reforms; human resources development; social development; rural development; population issues; women in development; and industry and technology. In cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and UNDP, a project entitled "SAARC Seven Sisters: district development coordination and improved poverty project design", was implemented. Technical assistance activities have been undertaken in support of initiatives to attain goals of the Asian Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993–2002, and the International Year of Older Persons.

61. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) adopted the issue of the follow-up to global conferences, including the Summit, as the theme of the first meeting of the ESCWA Committee on Social Development, which was held in March 1997. ESCWA is planning to convene a regional follow-up meeting to the Summit in November 1998, in cooperation with ILO, the League of Arab States and the Arab Network of non-governmental organizations, focusing on the three core issues addressed by the Summit, surveying national policies on these issues and assessing the impact of their implementation. It is envisaged that recommendations from this meeting will be addressed at the Arab Regional Meeting on Integrated

Conferences to be held in 1999. ESCWA's analytical work included a preliminary overview of socio-economic developments in the region for 1997–1998.

D. Civil society

1. Participation of non-governmental organizations at sessions of the Commission for Social Development and the special session of the General Assembly

62. Subsequent to the convening of the Summit, participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission for Social Development increased markedly from one session to another. In 1996, the special session of the Commission was attended by representatives from 49 non-governmental organizations. The number of non-governmental organizations which attended the session of the Commission the following year rose to 108. Attendance at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (10–20 February 1998) by non-governmental organizations reached the unprecedented number of 141.

63. Since 1996, sessions of the Commission have been structured according to the themes of the Summit: poverty eradication; productive employment and social integration. Linking the work of the Commission to the follow-up to the Summit and directing its deliberations to issues dealt with at Copenhagen has also increased the interest of non-governmental organizations in its meetings.

64. In addition, meetings of the Commission have been organized in a manner that allows non-governmental organizations to make a more constructive and active contribution, focusing mainly on substantive issues emerging from the Summit. Some expert members of the panels were selected from non-governmental organizations. At the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, a dialogue segment between representatives of non-governmental organizations and Member States was introduced for the first time. The Commission has therefore set in motion the active contribution of non-governmental organizations in global efforts aimed at implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

65. In May 1998, following the thirty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly considered the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations at both the work of the Committee and the special session.

66. In recognizing the importance of participation of non-governmental organizations and the involvement of civil society in the implementation and follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Summit, the Committee decided to open its work to the participation of those non-governmental organizations which are accredited to attend sessions of the Commission for Social Development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council. It also decided that the participation of non-governmental organizations at the special session will be guided by relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and will take into account the experience gained at the mid-decade review of the outcome of major United Nations conferences.

67. The Committee further encouraged Governments to include representatives of civil society in their national preparatory process, as well as in their delegations to the Preparatory Committee and to the special session.

2. Activities of non-governmental organizations in implementing the outcome of the Summit

68. Non-governmental organizations involved in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit have also played an active role in reminding Governments of their commitments made at Copenhagen and sensitizing public opinion on follow-up activities. In that connection, conferences, symposia and seminars have been organized worldwide; grass-roots activities have been conducted, mainly in partnership with governmental institutions.

69. In 1997, a group of major non-governmental organizations enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and having representatives at United Nations Headquarters joined efforts to form the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Social Development. Affiliated with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, the Committee aims at supporting social development programmes formulated and implemented by the United Nations and advocating for a better integration of social policy, sustainable development and economic progress in the work of various decision-making bodies, organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations. The Committee contributed significantly to a better planning and coordination of the participation of non-governmental organizations at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development. It has also begun consultations on the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to review the outcome of the Summit.

70. The "Social Watch" initiative, launched in 1996 by a group of non-governmental organizations from the South and the North, has established itself as a major publication in monitoring social development policies and programmes carried out by Governments in compliance with the goals set by the Summit. The 1998 edition presents a set of social indicators used in accessing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. This initiative attempts to establish quantifiable indicators aimed at tracing political will and equity.

71. In its efforts to foster democracy and good governance, social justice and economic prosperity through international cooperation, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has made recommendations on various specific problems of world economic and social development. At the Summit, IPU stressed issues such as world interdependence, sustainable human development and increased resources towards social development. The ninety-eighth Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, September 1997) was devoted to the topic of employment in a globalizing world. At its ninety-ninth Conference (Windhoek, April 1998), the Union took up, among others, the issue of engaging an action to combat HIV/AIDS in view of its devastating human, economic and social impact and foreign debt as a factor limiting the integration of developing countries into the process of globalization. In connection with the follow-up to the Summit, the IPU Committee on Sustainable Development recommended that IPU urge Governments which participated in the Summit to "give proof of their political will, confirm progress and implement the recommendations awaiting action, as contained in the 1995 report of the Summit". The Union is in the process of developing a questionnaire to be sent to parliaments, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in 2000.

72. The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is focusing its work on the preparation of the review of implementation of the Summit. To this end, it has been organizing regional and subregional non-governmental organization forums and other meetings on Summit implementation. In September 1997, it organized an non-governmental organization Forum on Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Kuala Lumpur. The Forum adopted a non-governmental organization statement entitled "Message to Manila", which was presented to the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Manila in November 1997. The Council's plans for 1998 and 1999 include subregional forums in the following countries: Ecuador (for the Andean region); Jamaica (for the Caribbean region); Guatemala (for the Central America region); India (for the South Asia region); Fiji (for the Pacific region); Thailand (for the south-east Asia region); and the Czech Republic (for the eastern European region). This series of meetings is intended to stimulate and coordinate regional and subregional efforts for the implementation of the agreements reached at Copenhagen.

73. The Council has also contributed greatly to the active involvement of non-governmental organizations in sessions of the Commission for Social Development. Through the organization of the Non-Governmental Organization Forum for Social Development, held jointly with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in 1998 prior to the session of the Commission, and the Issues Forum, held during sessions of the Commission, ICSW provided an opportunity to non-governmental organizations, representatives of Governments and officials of the United Nations to exchange views and share perspectives on issues debated by the Commission.

74. At the beginning of 1998, ICSW developed plans for a three-year Copenhagen Project which will focus on preparation for the special session in 2000 and on initial follow-up to that session. The principal goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of ICSW members and other non-governmental organizations throughout the world, especially in developing countries, to participate in the process of the special session.

75. Since 1994, representatives of more than 40 non-governmental organizations from the fields of development, social and environmental policies have been cooperating within the framework of the German non-governmental organization forum entitled "World Social Summit", with the major task of supporting the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It includes charitable and religious organizations, as well as political foundations, the German Women's Council and the German Confederation of Trade Unions. The Friedrich Ebert Foundation is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Forum.

76. The Forum for African Women Educationalists in Malawi organized a ministerial conference for the Sub-Sahara African region on the 20/20 Initiative as a follow-up activity to the World Summit for Social Development. The Conference aimed at providing a forum for ministers of education and finance to review the status of successes and failures in implementing the 20/20 Initiative as a means of increasing resources for social development.

VI. Conclusion

77. The intergovernmental process leading to the year 2000, when the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Social Development and to consider further actions and initiatives will take place, can be found in the annex to the present report.

78. While the present report has concentrated on positive developments and activities in implementing the outcome of the Summit, it is clear that far more extensive and effective action is required at the international, regional and national levels to tackle the desperately serious problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration faced by most countries. Governments agreed to this at the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the special session. The challenge is to identify the most effective additional concrete initiatives to move towards the goals set at Copenhagen.

Notes

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/53/45).

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 6* (E/1998/26).

[5] See E/ESCAP/1096.

[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 20*, chap. III-IV.

Annex

Intergovernmental process leading to the holding of the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000

Year month	*Meeting*	*Actions*
1998 (October/December)	General Assembly, fifty-third session	Decision on venue and dates of the special session Review progress made and provide further guidance
1999 (9–19 February)	Commission for Social Development, thirty-seventh session	Proposals to the Economic and Social Council on social services for all Input to first session of Preparatory Committee
1999 (17–28 May)	Preparatory Committee, first substantive session	Proposals on agenda of second session, additional documentation
1999 (July)	Economic and Social Council, substantive session	High-level segment on the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women Overall review of theme of poverty eradication to contribute to the special session
1999 (October–December)	General Assembly, fifty-fourth session	Take stock and provide additional guidance
2000 (7–18 February)	Commission for Social Development, thirty-eighth session	Proposals to Preparatory Committee on overview of follow-up to Summit
2000 (3–14 April)	Preparatory Committee, second substantive session	Proposals to the special session
2000 (dates and venue to be decided)	Special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives	Review of Summit agreements and consideration of further initiatives
2000 (July)	Economic and Social Council, substantive session	Consider report of Commission for Social Development
2000 (October–December)	General Assembly, fifty-fifth session	Consider report of the special session